

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MADRID DAILY PRINTS NOVOSTI E/R STATEMENT

1. FEBRUARY 24 MADRID DAILY EL PAIS (INDEPENDENT
LIBERAL LEFT) PRINTED SOVIET NOVOSTI COMMENTARY
ENTITLED "DOES NATO NEED THE NEUTRON BOMB?"
BYLINED BY "R.SIMONIAN, GENERAL, SPECIALIST IN
MILITARY AFFAIRS FOR THE SOVIET AGENCY NOVOSTI."
FULL TEXT FOLLOWS:

2. "THE PROTEST MOVEMENT HAS SPREAD ACROSS THE
WORLD AGAINST THE PENTAGON'S PROJECTS FOR PUTTING
THE NEUTRON BOMB INTO SERIES PRODUCTION AND THUS
GIVING A NEW DIRECTION TO THE ARMS RACE. AND
FURTHERMORE, INFLUENTIAL CIRCLES IN THE UNITED
STATES AND NATO HAVE UNLEASHED A PROPAGANDA
CAMPAIGN FAVORING THE ADOPTION OF THIS BARBAROUS
MEANS OF WAGING WAR AND PLACING IT IN THE TERRITORY
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OF THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THAT FORM PART OF THE
NORTH ATLANTIC BLOC.

3. "ACCORDING TO THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE NEUTRON
BOMB 'WILL HAVE A DECISIVE SIGNIFICANCE FOR NATO,
AS IT WOULD STRENGTHEN ITS NUCLEAR POTENTIAL.'
THE PENTAGON'S PLANS FOR THE CREATION OF THE NEUTRON

WEAPON CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS ISOLATED FROM THE CURRENT POLICY OF NATO IN RESPECT TO 'MODERNIZING' ITS STRATEGIC CONCEPTS, WHICH PRESUPPOSE THE POSSIBILITY OF USING VARIOUS TYPES OF NUCLEAR ARMS ON EUROPEAN TERRITORY.

4. "AS ALWAYS IN SUCH CASES, THIS POLICY IS HIDDEN BENEATH FALSE ARGUMENTS, SUCH AS THE 'SOVIET THREAT,' 'SUPERIORITY OF THE WARSAW PACT,' ETC. HOWEVER IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT AN APPROXIMATE BALANCE EXISTS BETWEEN THE FORCES OF THE WARSAW PACT STATES AND THE NATO COUNTRIES. THIS HAS ALSO BEEN REFERRED TO A NUMBER OF TIMES BY WESTERN LEADERS. NOR IS THIS UNKNOWN TO THE PARTISANS OF THE NEUTRON BOMB. AND WHAT DISQUIETS THEM IS NOT THE 'SOVIET THREAT,' NOR MUCH LESS: THE ATLANTIC STRATEGISTS ARE FORGING VERY DIFFERENT PLANS: THEY WANT TO ASSURE THEMSELVES OF NUCLEAR SUPERIORITY OVER THE SOVIET UNION AND THUS CHANGE THE EXISTING BALANCE OF FORCES IN EUROPE. TO ACHIEVE THIS, THEY PLACE GREAT HOPES IN THE NEUTRON TRIUMPH OF THE PENTAGON.

5. "IN EUROPE THERE ARE CONCENTRATED TODAY MORE THAN 7000 AMERICAN NUCLEAR DEVICES, WITH AN EXPLOSIVE POTENTIAL OF 460 MEGATONS, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROXIMATELY 3000 DELIVERY VEHICLES. IT IS A SECRET TO NOBODY THAT THE SOVIET UNION ALSO HAS NUCLEAR ARMS; IN SUCH CONDITIONS IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE WHERE AN ARMED CONFLICT IN EUROPE MIGHT LEAD.

6. "WHILE THE SIGNATORY COUNTRIES OF THE WARSAW PACT TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO 'DEFUSE' THIS REGION WHERE THE DANGER OF EXPLOSION IS OBVIOUS, WHILE THESE COUNTRIES CALL TO THE CSCE SIGNATORY STATES TO NOT MAKE FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR ARMS, AS WELL AS OTHER CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVES BY THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, THE PENTAGON AND NATO PROPOSE TO ADD EVEN MORE ARMAMENTS AND PLAN TO INCREASE THEIR NUCLEAR ARSENAL WITH A NEW CLASS OF DEADLY WEAPON.

7. "MEANWHILE, THE PARTISANS OF THE NEW SPIRAL OF THE ARMS RACE TRY TO PRESENT THE NEUTRON BOMB TO THE EYES OF WORLD PUBLIC OPINION AS A 'CLEAN AND TACTICAL' WEAPON, WHICH ONLY KILLS PEOPLE, LEAVING BUILDINGS AND MILITARY MATERIALS ALMOST INTACT, AND WHICH IS ONLY A WEAPON OF THE SO-CALLED

TACTICAL 'LIMITED' NUCLEAR WAR.

8. "WHAT CAN WE SAY ABOUT THIS? IT IS NOTORIOUS THAT THE INVENTORS OF THE NEUTRON BOMB DO NOT THINK OF USING IT IN TEXAS OR IN CALIFORNIA. THE NEUTRON WEAPON IS A FRONT LINE WEAPON. IT IS DESTINED FOR PLACEMENT (AND CONSEQUENTLY USE) ON EUROPEAN TERRITORY. SAID IN ANOTHER WAY, THE VICTIMS OF THE 'CLEAN' BOMBS WOULD BE, IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE EUROPEANS.

9. "AND IN THIS RESPECT IT IS OPPORTUNE TO POINT OUT THAT IF THE COUNTRIES OF WESTERN EUROPE WERE TO OPPOSE THE INSTALATION OF THIS WEAPON ON THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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TERRITORIES, THE PROBABILITY IS GREAT THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD RENOUNCE ITS SERIES PRODUCTION." RYLANCE

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